

BRIDGES, p. 181. " An occasional child of any pre-school age may manipulate the genitalia when unoccupied or disinterested in an occupation. This is more frequent among boys than girls, perhaps due partly to difference in clothing. Thigh-rubbing may occur on occasion, and this along with genital manipulation may perform a similar function to thumb-sucking. These reactions are probably soothing and comforting in effect. ^They relieve tension and at the same time provide an easy and pleasant occupation in place of a disinteresting one or none at all. The children who behave in this way are the ones who have diffuse attention or scattered and indefinite interests, or those who have very few interests. Thus the restless children with much undirected energy, the disinterested and the lethargic children seem to be the ones who tend to masturbate. As children develop organised interests in different occupations, and as they take delight in developing their own skills and in rhythmic and other activity, these habits disappear/"?

J. B. WATSON: "What the Nursery Has to Say About Instincts/" *Psychologies of 1925*, p. 19. " At what age tumescence becomes a conditioned response is not known. Masturbation (a better term with infants is manipulation of the penis or vagina respectively) can occur at almost any age. The earliest case I have personally observed was a girl around one year of age (it often begins much earlier). The infant was sitting up in the bath-tub and in reaching for the soap accidentally touched the external opening of the vagina with her finger. The search for the soap stopped, stroking of the vagina began and a smile overspread the face. Neither in the case of infant boys nor of infant girls have I seen masturbation carried to the point where the orgasm takes place (it must be remembered that the orgasm can occur without ejaculation in the male before the age of puberty is reached). Apparently a great many of the muscular responses later to be used in the sex act, such as pushing, climbing, stroking, are ready to

function in
the male at least at a very much earlier age
than we are
accustomed to think. In one observed case
which came into
the clinic, a boy of 3½ years of age would mount
his mother or
nurse, whichever one happened to be sleeping
with him.
Erection would take place and he would
manipulate and bite
her breast; then clasping and sex movements
similar to those
of adults would ensue. In this case the mother,
who was
separated from her husband, had deliberately
attempted to
build up this reaction in her child/

J. B. WATSON : *Psychological Care of Infant and
Child*, p. 143.
"Masturbation is not, however, a problem
that begins in